



**Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.**  
*Governor*

**C. Ronald Franks**  
*Secretary*

**Michael S. Steele**  
*Lt. Governor*

**Maryland Department of Natural Resources**  
Tawes State Office Building  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**W. P. Jensen**  
*Deputy Secretary*

April 9, 2004

Mr. Wayne Pacelle, Senior Vice President  
Communications and Government Affairs  
2100 L. Street, N.E.  
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Mr. Pacelle:

Thank you for your March 17, 2004 letter and the kind offer to help fund some of the work Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is doing to manage black bear damage compensation and conflict management. As you know, over the years we have aggressively developed and utilized non-lethal strategies in an effort to manage problem bear conflicts in Maryland. To this end, all members of our Black Bear Response Team receive specialized training, equipment and employ a broad array of aversive conditioning strategies to resolve bear conflicts. In addition, much of our staff, including all of the Response Team members, are trained to educate the public in being "bear aware."

As your kind offer recognizes, our efforts in this regard do not come cheaply. Despite the expenses and the difficult fiscal situation facing our agency, DNR maintains its commitment to the non-lethal strategies embodied in both the Nuisance Bear Response Plan and the draft 10-Year Black Bear Management Plan. Any assistance financing these commitments is helpful, and thus we accept your offer.

That said, as you acknowledge in your letter we are currently proposing regulations to conduct a limited bear hunt for the Fall/Winter of 2004. As you are also aware, the regulation proposal is still under development. Should we adopt final regulations authorizing the limited bear hunt, we will reject the requirement, as expressed in your letter, that your offer of assistance be contingent upon a cancellation of the hunt.


While we may not agree on the final hunting regulations, I hope that your commitment to assist us is sincere and that we can count on your financial and philosophical support for the remaining non-lethal and education strategies in our bear management plan.

*Mr. Pacelle*

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I look forward to your positive response and thank you again for this meaningful offer. If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 410-260-8549 or toll free at 1-877-620-8367 ext. 8549.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul A. Peditto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" being more prominent.

Paul A. Peditto  
Director,  
Wildlife and Heritage Service

cc: Michael Markarian, President  
The Fund for Animals  
National Campaign Office  
8121 Georgia Avenue, Suite 301  
Silver Spring, MD 20910